



Maryland State Department of Education and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture Partnership

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The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (MAAHC) is dedicated to providing the premier experience and best resource for information about and programs on Maryland African American history and culture to visitors of all ages. With education as the primary mission, the Museum and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) have developed a partnership to reach more than 50,000 teachers and 850,000 students in Maryland's public schools. And for the state's nearly 300,000 African American students, the MAAHC/MSDE Partnership has committed itself through its efforts to eliminating the patterns of low and declining African American student achievement.

Supported by teacher institutes and training programs and exciting pre- and post-museum visit activities, the partnership will impact student achievement in social studies, professional development for teachers and innovative instructional practice. Students, teachers, and parents of all ethnicities and cultures will learn about the unique contributions of Maryland's African American citizens to the state, the nation and to the world. This is the first time a museum of African American history and culture and a state department of education have worked together to develop educational materials and museum content simultaneously. This is truly a magnificent undertaking!

The Maryland State Department of Education is proud to take the lead in a most exciting partnership. The establishment of The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture provides the opportunity to develop curriculum that informs students of all ages about the contributions and experiences of African American Marylanders, past to present. By collecting, preserving, interpreting, documenting and exhibiting the artifacts of Maryland African American history, art and culture, the Museum will create a climate of understanding and appreciation supportive of curriculum implementation. The education component of museum services will ensure that all Maryland students actively engage in learning opportunities that benefit from the valuable resources of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Whether through on-site interactive programs or through outreach initiatives, the curriculum will potentially reach every student, in every classroom, in every school in Maryland.

The Education Task Force, chaired by Dr. Charles Christian, Professor of Geography at the University of Maryland and the author of ***Black Saga: A Chronology of the African American Experience***, is comprised of educators, curriculum specialists, and experts in African American history, culture and arts. This Task Force will develop the

concept and curriculum for a state-of-the-art education initiative with Maryland's public and parochial schools. Informed by the input of people and organizations statewide, the classroom lessons and teaching strategies will engage students in:

Experiential Learning – Students learn by doing and will have a wide range of opportunities for “hands on” involvement. Through interactive Learning Centers, programs, exhibits, and special activities, students will work closely with historical and cultural concepts, objects, and artifacts. On site at the Museum, in school-based activities, and through outreach programs, students will be active participants in Maryland African American history, culture, and art.

Extended Learning – A visit to the Museum will begin with advance preparation, requiring students to research and explore key issues before arriving at the Museum doors. Carefully structured, this preparation will add depth to the Museum experience. After the visit, students will engage in follow-up projects and activities and reflect on their experiences. This combination of *advance preparation – on site exploration – follow-up and reflection* encourages students to go beyond the exhibits and apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Applied Learning – The Museum is a catalyst – enabling the past to meet the present to create the future. Students will be challenged to apply lessons learned from the past to solve contemporary problems and encouraged to take an active part in envisioning the future. This aspect of the curriculum will bring history, culture, and the arts to life – empowering young people to think imaginatively and creatively – forging purposeful learning.

In addition to exhibits and programs, the Museum will provide important services that will enhance instruction. As a vital resource to the education community, and integrated with Maryland's standards-based education reform, the education component will offer:

- **A curriculum** developed by the Maryland State Department of Education, and curriculum support through workshops, resources, materials, and technical assistance to strengthen curriculum, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, build curricular connections, and enhance the delivery of instruction.
- **High quality professional development** for teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators to increase their capacity to incorporate Maryland African American history, culture, and arts in delivering effective instruction and student support.
- **Family involvement** information, materials, and activities to engage parents, siblings, and other family members and to reinforce and supplement instruction.
- **Comprehensive information and resources** for students, parents, and school staff through the information Resource Center and SAILOR – including distance learning, teleconferencing and easy access, web-based information.
- **Direct access to experts** in Maryland African American history, culture, the arts and, key facets of African American contemporary life who can share knowledge, talents and, experiences.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture and the proposed curriculum will have an enormous impact on the quality of educational opportunity afforded Maryland's students.